

9 January 1970
SG-70/7

MEMORANDUM FOR: IBM Project Manager - Mr. J. Naughton

SUBJECT : Evaluation of 360 FFS as an Alternative for GICS
Conversion

1. Mr. Falle's outline for the evaluation of 360 FFS (dated 24 Dec 1969) is greatly appreciated and represents a good basic plan of action. Some of the data on GICS file characteristics and processing will take a little time to gather, and we may have to write programs to get some of the statistics requested in Para. 1.A.5.

2. We would like to take the following steps on a priority basis (next 3-4 weeks):

a. Visit an installation which uses 360 FFS to get an idea of processing characteristics. If possible, we would like to talk to a user who has large tape files similar to the RIS, which has 2,000,000 line entries or about 50 million bytes of data. We are interested in typical processing time for file maintenance, query and report generation.

b. Design a preliminary 360 FFS FFT (File Format Table) for a selection of Checklist and other typical records from the RIS to see if we can retain the logical and visual association of data and source that we now have on our GICS input sheet and master list. (Your Para B.1.)

c. Based on the above test FFT, to estimate the file expansion which will occur in conversion from GICS to 360 FFS. Our rough estimate is that the 2-reel GICS tape file might expand to 10 to 15 tape reels in 360 FFS. This appears to be the major drawback to FFS that we have identified at this point.

2. We would like to proceed on the evaluation steps outlined in your Para 1 to see if conversion is generally feasible and to see if there are solutions to the expansion in file size (over and above using 1600 bpi tape). We would also like to determine if there are other serious obstacles to conversion so that we can consider conversion to FFS versus GICS reprogramming, and accurately measure the trade-off before proceeding to the steps outlined in your Paras 11 and 111.

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